

Filed for intro on 04/10/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 600
By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of legendary golfer Jay D. Baumgardner, Jr.

WHEREAS, the members of the Tennessee General Assembly and the Tennessee golf community were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Jay D. Baumgardner, a native of Bristol; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baumgardner was an outstanding golfer, and his numerous victories include winning the Country Club of Bristol Invitational 11 times; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baumgardner, the son of a military man, was born in 1935 and traveled around the world during World War II with his father; and

WHEREAS, after returning home, he attended Tennessee High School; he played high school basketball and earned an athletic scholarship to East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, after Mr. Baumgardner suffered an injury, he and several other students convinced the university to field a golf team. He had thus discovered what would become a lifetime passion; and

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WHEREAS, a popular and highly regarded student, he graduated from East Tennessee State University, with a degree in business, he enjoyed a 36-year career in the life insurance profession, most recently serving as an executive with Prudential Life Insurance Company; and

WHEREAS, a former President of the Bristol Insurance Group, Jay Baumgardner established the Queen of Hearts program; and

WHEREAS, from 1993-96, Mr. Baumgardner won the Tennessee Senior Amateur Championship three times; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, he was ranked ninth in the United States in the Senior Amateur ratings compiled by *Golf Digest*; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, this exemplary golfer played on the Tennessee teams participating in the Mid-South Cup Matches and the United States Challenge Matches; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Mr. Baumgardner became the only golfer ever inducted into the prestigious Northeast Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, an extremely gifted athlete who possessed “killer instincts” when it came to golf, his intuitive skills guaranteed that his mere presence on a golf course would result in success. His short game and his drives were both superb; and

WHEREAS, the all-time, winningest golfer in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia history, Jay Baumgardner was first and foremost a friend and constant promoter of the sport, and was always willing to help his fellow golfers; and

WHEREAS, he was a loyal and supportive member of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, having served on the Vestry; and

WHEREAS, an excellent role model for the “Volunteer State,” Jay Baumgardner contributed significantly to numerous civic organizations, including admirable service as a member of the Bristol Country Club Board of Directors, member of the Bristol Rotary Club, a Paul Harris Fellow, member of the Paramount Theatre Board of Directors, member of the Producers Guild, and as a five-year Chairman of the King College golf program; at the time of

his death, he had recently been appointed to the East Tennessee State University Search Committee, which is charged with locating and recommending a new athletic director for the school; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, Mr. Baumgardner and his wife, Jean, raised two daughters, Jayne B. Smith and Jennifer Humphrey; three sons, Jay D. Baumgardner III, Joel Baumgardner, and Jon Baumgardner; he was especially fond of his four grandchildren, Ashley, Tyler, Kelli, and Jack; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to honor the memory of this outstanding golfer and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Jay D. Baumgardner, reflecting fondly on his remarkable success as a golfer, business professional, and public servant, and his many contributions to the sport and to his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathies to his wife and family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.